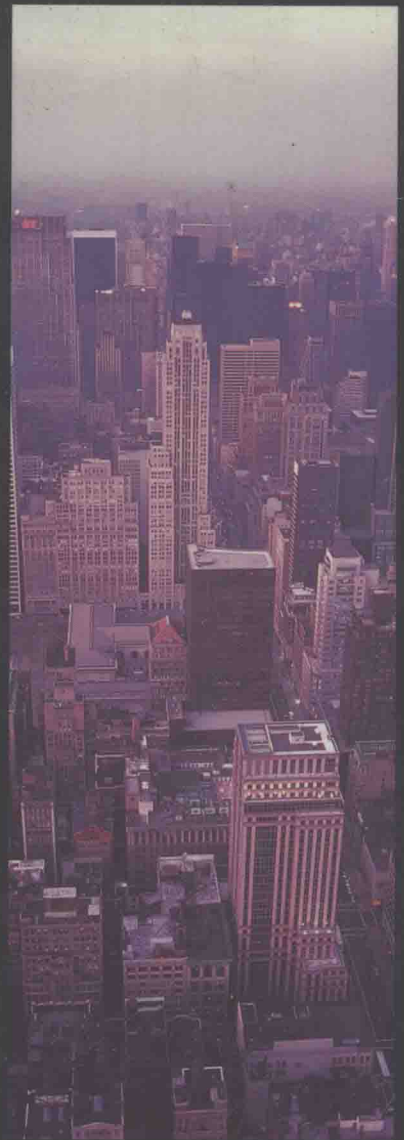


STEPHEN K. SANDERSON



MACROSOCIOLOGY

AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN SOCIETIES

THIRD EDITION

Macrosociology

AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN SOCIETIES

Third Edition

Stephen K. Sanderson
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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Macrosociology

For Ruth, Derek, and Sarah

*No description can even begin to lead to a valid explanation
if it does not effectively encompass the whole world.*

—**FERNAND BRAUDEL**

Preface

It was nearly 20 years ago that I first conceived of the idea of writing a general sociology text from a comparative, historical, and evolutionary perspective. I thought it would be easy. It wasn't. I conceptualized and reconceptualized, wrote and rewrote, and eventually the first edition of *Macrosociology: An Introduction to Human Societies* appeared, and a second edition followed three years later. My publisher and I have been extremely gratified by the success of *Macrosociology*, and we remain strongly committed to keeping the book current and to maintaining the highest standards of scholarly and pedagogical excellence. The third edition has benefited from an extensive updating of statistical data, and the annotated reading lists at the end of each chapter have been made current. In addition, four new Special Topic sections at the ends of Chapters 5, 16, 17, and 19 have been written.

The most important changes in this edition have involved reworking the discussion of the rise of modern capitalism, in addition to revising and extending the discussions of the recent economic and political changes in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In Chapter 7, an entirely new and original interpretation of the rise of capitalism is presented. The discussion in Chapter 8 of economic reforms in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe has been revised and enlarged. An entirely new discussion titled "The Collapse of Com-

munism" has been added to Chapter 12. Chapter 12 has also benefited from an enlarged discussion of the origins of parliamentary democracy, and a new explanation of the triumph of democracy has been offered. With these changes and others, Chapter 12 has been almost entirely rewritten. New features of this edition are as follows:

- *Chapter 2:* Expanded discussion of biological evolution; updated discussion of human evolution; updated discussion of the origins of language; updated discussion of research on ape language; revised discussion of the Special Topic on sociobiology.
- *Chapter 4:* Revised discussion of the importance of gathering and food storing in hunter-gatherer societies; updated discussion of the Neolithic Revolution; revised discussion of pastoralism; revised discussion of the causes of subsistence intensification.
- *Chapter 5:* New discussion of commercialization in agrarian societies; new Special Topic, "Hunter-Gatherers and their Neighbors."
- *Chapter 6:* New discussion of stratification among hunter-gatherers.
- *Chapter 7:* New discussion of the development of capitalism in Japan; completely revised discussion of the causes of the transition to capitalism.
- *Chapter 8:* New discussion of industrial capitalism in Japan; revised discussion of state socialist economies; new discussion of economic reform in state socialism and the transition to postsocialism; Special Topic, "The Rise of a Postindustrial Society?", previously in Chapter 20, moved here.
- *Chapter 10:* New discussion of recent trends toward greater income inequality; new discussion of changes in state socialist stratification systems with the shift to postsocialism.
- *Chapter 11:* Updated discussion of the emergence of pristine states.
- *Chapter 12:* Revised and expanded discussion of the rise of national states in early modern Europe; revised and expanded discussion of the emergence of parliamentary democracy in the West; revised discussion of world-system position and the form of the state; revised and expanded discussion of totalitarian states; new discussion of the collapse of Communist regimes.
- *Chapter 13:* Revised discussion of the abolition of the slave trade and slavery; updated discussion of apartheid in South Africa.
- *Chapter 14:* Terminological distinction between "sex" and "gender" introduced and maintained throughout.
- *Chapter 15:* Updated discussion of the reasons for monogamy; revised and updated discussion of incest avoidance.
- *Chapter 16:* Updated discussion of pre-modern parent-child relations; revised and updated discussion of black female-headed families; updated discussion of recent changes in marital relationships; new Special Topic, "Is the Family in Decline?"
- *Chapter 17:* New Special Topic, "The Japanese Educational System."
- *Chapter 18:* Updated discussion of the causes of millenarian movements.
- *Chapter 19:* Updated discussion of long-term evolutionary changes in the standard of living; revised and updated discussion of long-term evolutionary changes in human freedom; new Special Topic, "The Postmodern Condition."

In order to accommodate the many additions, old Chapter 19 on the social foundations of science has been eliminated. I was fond of this chapter, but space had to be created, and this chapter seemed to be the most expendable.

There are four distinct advantages of approaching sociology from a comparative,

historical, and evolutionary perspective: greater scientific rigor (since comparison is the essence of science), an enhanced ability to combat ethnocentrism, a strong focus on the extremely important issue of social change, and a greater ability to prepare students for the worldwide social order in which we now live. A comparative and evolutionary perspective provides a fascinating learning experience that is capable of giving us more insight into the nature of our own society than would otherwise be possible. I have gained enormous pleasure over the years from the comparative analysis of human behavior and human societies, and I am delighted to be able to share what I have learned with others.

Many individuals are involved in the creation of a book. I am grateful to the reviewers selected by HarperCollins to evaluate this edition critically: John Teddy Ambenge, University of Connecticut; Christopher Chase-Dunn, Johns Hopkins University; Timothy Crippen, Mary Washington College; H. Gary Gustafson, Spokane Community College; Stephen McNamee, University of North Carolina-Wilmington; David Maume, Jr., University of Cincinnati; Garrett S. Olmsted, Bluefield State College; and Jack W. Sattell, Minneapolis Community College. As in the case of the first two

editions, I have found the editorial staff of HarperCollins to be wonderful professionals to work with. Alan McClare, my sponsoring editor, coordinated everything and kept everyone on track; Ellen MacElree and Diane Williams, the project editors, guided the book smoothly through the production process; and Mira Schachne did her usual excellent work in locating appropriate illustrations.

I dedicated the first two editions of this book to my wife, Ruth, and my two children, Derek and Sarah, and I dedicate this new edition to them as well. Ruth and Derek's interests are literary rather than social scientific, but this gives them an appreciation of both the difficulties and the pleasures of the writing process. Sarah's interests are neither literary nor social scientific, but she did take some interest in the revisions when she recognized that they involved as much cutting and pasting as actual writing. More significantly, however, like her mother and brother, Sarah contributes to a delightful family atmosphere that greatly eases the more difficult aspects of authorship, and for that I am both extremely grateful and extremely lucky.

Stephen K. Sanderson

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